

REMARKS

Claims 1-6 are pending. Claims 1 and 3 have been amended. Claims 5 and 6 have been newly added.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 1 and 3 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph. The Examiner alleges that the specification does not reasonably provide enablement for the recitation of a predetermined time and subcritical range as claimed.

Applicants respectfully submit that the language of the claims is sufficiently limiting so that the claims do not cover embodiments of the invention which are not enabled by the specification. Claims 1 and 4 recite the limitation “wherein an aromatic polyamide is hydrolyzed and separated during said first step, and dehalogenation is carried out during said second step.” These process steps require specific time, pressure and temperature conditions. The claims are limited by these requisite conditions. One of ordinary skill in the art would understand the time, pressure and temperature required for the steps of hydrolyzing and separating an aromatic polyamide and for dehalogenation. Therefore, the embodiments of the claims as currently written are enabled by the specification. Favorable reconsideration of the rejection is requested.

Claims 1 and 4 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, because they lack antecedent bases for the terms “aromatic polyamide” and “dehalogenation.” Claims 1 and 3 have been amended to recite that the non-metallic honeycomb panel comprises aromatic polyamide and halogen components. Withdrawal of the rejection is requested.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-4 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being anticipated by *Saleh* (U.S. Patent 5,326,791). Favorable reconsideration is requested.

The present invention is a method for decomposing a nonmetallic honeycomb panel (claims 1, 2 and 5) and a method for recycling a nonmetallic honeycomb panel (claims 3, 4 and 6). As recited in amended claims 1 and 3, the honeycomb panel comprises aromatic polyamide and halogen components.

Applicants respectfully submit that *Saleh* does not disclose a two-step hydrolysis process and that *Saleh* does not disclose a hydrolysis process carried out at a supercritical water temperature as recited in claims 1 and 4.

The present invention as specifically recited in amended claims 1 and 4, requires a two-step hydrolysis process. The first step occurs at a subcritical water temperature, and the second step occurs at a **supercritical water temperature**. In the second step, the phenolic resin and fluorine-based film are hydrolyzed. The halogenated substance created during the hydrolysis reaction is dehalogenated.

Saleh discloses only a one-step hydrolysis process. The one-step hydrolysis process in *Saleh* occurs at a temperature between a subcritical water temperature and **up to the critical temperature of water**. (Col. 2, lines 7-22). The one-step process lasts for a time sufficient to convert the hydrolyzable polymers. Therefore, *Saleh* does not disclose the elements as recited in claims 1 and 4.

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Applicants respectfully submit that *Saleh* does not disclose separating a non-metallic honeycomb panel into a decomposition product and a glass fiber as recited in claims 2 and 3. *Saleh* only discloses separating hydrolyzable polymers such as polyamides from non-hydrolyzable polymers such as polypropylene or polyethylene. (Col. 1, lines 45-49.) Therefore, *Saleh* does not disclose the elements as recited in claims 2 and 3.

Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-4 is hereby solicited.

New Claims

Claims 5 and 6 have been added to the application. These claims depend from claims 1 and 3 respectively. They specifically recite time, temperature and pressure conditions as recited in the specification. No new matter has been added.

In view of the aforementioned amendments and accompanying remarks, Applicants submit that the claims, as herein amended, are in condition for allowance. Applicants request such action at an early date.

If the Examiner believes that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

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If this paper is not timely filed, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. The fees for such an extension or any other fees that may be due with respect to this paper may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-2866.

Respectfully submitted,
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